Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL JAKARTA 2851

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDONESIA

REF: JAKARTA 2828

- 1. I HAVE TAKEN OCCASION MY RETURN FROM CONSULTATION TO STRESS COMMITMENT OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AT SAME TIME SEEKING FURTHER CLARIFICATION ACTUAL INDONESIAN INTENTIONS RE TIMING AND NATURE RELEASE OF 30,000 CURRENTLY DETAINED.
- 2. CONVERSATION, REPORTED REFTEL, WITH ADMIRAL SUDOMO CAN BE CONSIDERED MILDLY ENCOURAGING, ALTHOUGH ADMIRAL HAS TENDENCY PUT BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON CIRCUMSTANCES. I RECEIVED GREATER EMPHASIS ON DIFFICULTIES OF RELEASING LARGE NUMBER DETAINEES WHEN I RAISED SUBJECT WITH CHIEF ARMY INTELLIGENCE GENERAL MURDANI DURING DISCUSSION MILITARY ASSISTANCE. I WILL EMPHASIZE OUR INTEREST AGAIN IN MEETINGS I AM SEEKING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK, ATTORNEY GENERAL ALI SAID, ANDMINISTER DEFENSE PANGGABEAN AND, SHOULD OCCASION ARISE, WITH PRESIDENT. ON BASIS DISCUSSIONS TO DATE, I DRAW THESE CONCLUSIONS.

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A. PRESIDENT SUHARTO CLEARLY DESIRES PROCEED WITH SOME FORM RELEASE OF 30,000 DETAINEES WITH THREE YEAR PERIOD AS INDICATED. ACTUAL STATUS THESE PERSONS AFTER RELEASE STILL BEING DEBATED WITHIN REGIME.

B. NO ACTION OR DECISIONS LIKELY UNTIL AFTER INDONESIAN ELECTIONS IN MAY.

C. INDONESIANS RECEPTIVE TO VISITS BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES PROVIDED CONCENTRATION IS ON CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES AND NOT ON INDIVIDUAL CASES. IN THIS CONNECTIONS, I BELIEVE DEPT. COULD QUIETLY EXPLORE WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION JURISTS CIRCUMSTANCE UNDER WHICH THEY MIGHT RESPOND TO INDONESIAN INVITATION TO EXAMINE CURRENT SCREENING PROCEDURES. EMBASSY WOULD SUPPORT SUCH INVITATION BUT CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT BE ASSURED OF ULTIMATE INDONESIAN ACTION.

D. INDONESIANS WOULD BE READY RECEIVE MS. DERIAN FOR FULL DISCUSSION THEIR SITUATION AND, DEPENDING ON HER WISHES, VISIT TO BURU. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR RUSMIN HAS TOLD ME HE WILL SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH HER UPON HIS RETURN LATER THIS MONTH AND MAY EXTEND INVITATION AT THAT TIME.

E. OUT CONTINUED READINESS PROVIDE SECURITY ASSISTANCE REMAINS IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN INDONESIAN RESPONSE TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.

F. WE WILL CONTINUE FIND RECEPTIVE AUDIENCE IN INDONESIA, BOTH THROUGH PRIVATE GROUPS AND SUSIS FOR LECTURES, FILMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS.

G. OUR SUCCESS WITH INDONESIANS WILL ALSO DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT ON HOW WE DEFINE OUR INTEREST. INTEREST IN FULL RELEASE OF THOSE WHOM MANY STILL CONSIDER HARD-LINE COMMUNISTS LIKELY BE LESS SUCCESSFUL THAN EMPHASIS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES ACCEPTABLE TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION IN WHICH EACH DETAINEE HAS FULL AND FAIR HEARING OF HIS CASE. OUR APPROACH SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT, AFTER SUCH HEARING, SOME WILL CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED.

3. IN DRAWING ABOVE CONCLUSIONS, I DO NOT WISH TO SUGGEST THAT INDONESIAN REPONSE OF TYPE WE DESIRE IS ASSURED.

PROBLEM OF DETAINEES FROM 1965 COUP ATTEMPT REMAINS HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUE IN WHICH THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY DIVIDED VIEWS ON SOLUTION WITHIN REGIME. THEIR SENSITIVITY TO OUR VIEWS AND THEIR READINESS TO DISCUSS ISSUES, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO PROVICDE US WITH OPPORTUNITY TO INQUIRE CONCERNING THEIR POLICIES AND INTENDED ACTIONS AND, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, TO SUGGEST ACTIONS. THIS STANCE, AT LEAST, KEEPS OUR INTEREST BEFORE THEM AND REQUIRES THEIR CONTINUING ATTENTION TO PROBLEM, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY NOT BRING QUICK OR THOROUGHTLY ACCEPTABLE RESULTS.

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